

Right To Education Local Task Force 21
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Amanda Robbins, Chairperson
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(610) 533-0344

AGENDA: MAY 25TH, 2023

1. Welcome Visitors

2. Roll Call

The Local Task Force 21 wants to grow! We would like to encourage Parents to become more involved with the LTF21. If you are interested, after attending two LTF meetings, you can represent your child's school district! The LTF is a safe, judgment-free place that was created by parents, for parents who have children with disabilities. We are here to help with education issues and to make sure every child receives F.A.P.E. (A Free and Appropriate Public Education). By attending the Local Task Force meetings, you are opening the door to new possibilities for you, your family and your student(s). Together we can do great things!

3. Correction/Approval of Minutes from March 22nd, 2023

4. Agency Reports:

- a. The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties: Updates and Legislation
- b. The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA)
- c. The Arc of Pennsylvania
- d. Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21
- e. Lehigh County Developmental Programs
- f. Carbon County Developmental Programs (CMP)
- g. Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)
- h. Superintendent's Report: We are looking for a new school district to provide updates!
- i. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)
- j. Other Agency/Provider Information

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Membership
- b. Compliance Monitoring
- c. In-Service
- d. Legislation (listed in minutes)

6. Chairperson's Report:

- a. State Task Force Update
- b. Upcoming Training and Event Info. (see newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/u/local.task.force.iu21>)

7. Presentation:

This presentation is intended to provide information on *Sibshops* from a certified and trained professional, as well as, an advocate from the Arc of NEPA; Katie Foley.

8. Discussion

9. Elections

10. Adjournment

Dates of Interest:

1. Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board Meetings for 2022-2023 School Year @ 6:30PM:
June 19th, 2023
For more information visit: <https://www.cliu.org>
2. State Task Force Meeting: STF 2022-2023 bi-monthly Meeting Schedule:
Completed for the 2022-2023 School Year
Meeting ID: 991 9413 4883

For more information visit: <https://www.pattan.net/about-us/partners/state-task-force/>

MINUTES: March 22nd, 2023

1. Amanda Robbins called the March 22nd, 2023 meeting of the Right to Education Local Task Force 21 to order at 10:04 AM.

Members Present:

Amanda Robbins; LTF21: Chairperson and Parent Rep., East Penn SD
Dr. Mark Scott; CLIU21: Director of Special Programs and Services
MaryJo King; CLIU21 Assistant to Director of Special Programs and Services
Kendyle Mills; CLIU21: Education Consultant and Presenter
Susan Kluge; Advocate: Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties
Kathy Purcell; Director, Therapeutic Arts Group
Jill Glose; Easter Seals Eastern PA
Kaitlyn Tretter; OVR Representative
Heather Shirk; Lehigh County Developmental Programs
Nicole Lindsay; Northeast Regional Coordinator Parent to Parent of PA
Emma Furiosi; Carbon Monroe Pike Mental Health Developmental Services
Eleni Burd; IM/ADEPT Program Specialist, Arc of Pennsylvania
Tierra Brown; IM/ADEPT Program Specialist, Arc of Pennsylvania
Alyssa Mierla; LTF21: East Penn SD Parent Representative
Theresa LaFavor; Parent Rep.: Catasauqua SD
Sandra D'Alessandro; Parent, Salisbury SD
Tracey Jacobi; Salisbury SD Special Education Director

Visitors Present:

Jessica Micocci; Parent, Parkland SD

Members Absent:

Jessica McKenty-Nutall; Director of Advocacy: Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties
Kodi Berry; Intake/Resource Coordinate, Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties
Dr. Deborah Ohmacht; Advocate: Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties
Roseann Polishan; Advocate for Arc of NEPA; LTF19 Chairperson
Mandy Colville; Advocate for the Arc of NEPA; LTF20 Chairperson
Katie Foley; Advocate for the Arc of NEPA; LTF18 Chairperson
Kristy Fogle; Parent; SC Supervisor: Quality Progressions
Maureen Timlin; ODP: Northeast Region's Supporting Families Lead

Mark Botto, Officer Manager, Therapeutic Arts Group, LLC
Katerri Beachum; The PEAL Center
Mark Botto; Office Manager, Therapeutic Arts Groups
Deb Penn; PA Elks Home Care Nursing Services
Mimi Ludwig; Autism Society Lehigh Valley Founder
Suzanne Rentschler; Palmerton SD Special Education Director
Kelly Theophile; CLIU21 Representative
Keith Focht; State Task Force Chairperson
Christine Piripavel; Allentown SD Supervisor
Karina Castillo; Corazones Unidos para el Autismo; Parent Rep., Allentown SD
Erika Christofaro-Melton; Lehigh County Integrated Services
Mara Wolfe; MS CRC Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)
Andrea Edmonds; Northwestern Lehigh SD Special Education Director
Lisa Mendoza; Parent Rep.; Parkland SD
Michelle Dotta; Northern Lehigh SD Special Education Director

2. Welcome Visitors:

Amanda Robbins, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the Right To Education: Local Task Force 21 September Meeting and gave thanks to everyone for attending. I'm Amanda Robbins, Chairperson. If you are new to LTF21 meetings, please put your name, district your child attends or agency you represent, with your email address in the chat. We are glad you could join us today.

3. Roll Call:

The Local Task Force 21 wants to grow! We would like to encourage Parents to become more involved with the LTF. If you are interested, please email localtaskforce21@gmail.com and after attending two LTF meetings, you can represent your child's school district! The LTF is a safe, judgment-free, place that was created by parents, for parents who have children with disabilities. We are here to help with educational issues and to make sure every child receives F.A.P.E. (A Free and Appropriate Public Education). By attending the Local Task Force meetings, you are opening the door to new possibilities for you, your family and your student(s). All things are possible because together we can do great things!

4. Correction/Approval Of Minutes:

Amanda asked members if there are any corrections to the January minutes. If not, next is the approval of the minutes from the February 22nd, 2023 meeting. Would someone please make a motion to approve the minutes? 1st motion; Kathy Purcell. 2nd; Dr. Mark Scott. Motion passed.

5. Agency Reports:

a. The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties:

<http://arcoflehighborough.org/>

Jessica McKenty-Nuttall reported via email:

Questions related to Advocacy can be directed to me at

jmckenty@arcoflehighborough.org and questions regarding FD/FSS can be directed to Mike Paulik: MichaelPaulik@lehighcounty.org

1. Upcoming Webinars:

a. March 28, 2023 | 6:30 – 8:30PM “Transition Goals, Activities, and Services in the IEP” presented by PEAL & co-hosted with The Autism Society Lehigh Valley. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m_XzqFL8TZWD8a0yLq-09Q

b. April 4, 2023 | 6:30 – 8:30PM “Understanding Dyslexia: Know Your Child's Educational Rights in School” presented by Heather Hulse, Esq. with McAndrews Law Firm. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jSQJE41HSragRwB6K3ATQq

c. April 12, 2023 | 6:30 – 8:30PM “Transitioning from School to Adulthood for Students with Disabilities: A Look from Both Sides of the Fence” presented by Dr. Domenico Cavauiolo & Angela Murphy, Esq. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jn4taOZAT02SkVCerD4hVg

Visit our website to see the complete list of our current & upcoming webinars. You can submit training requests to us here, and join our mailing list here to receive email updates on our training opportunities & events!

If you are interested in getting disability-related resources or looking for more specific advocacy assistance, please contact the Department through our online intake form, <http://arcoflehighnorthampton.org/>, or by calling 610-849-8076 ext. 321

In addition to our Advocacy Department, The Arc has 2 additional programs: SPARC & AWC. Our SPARC program is operating in both community & facility-based services! Questions and referrals can be directed to the Department's Director, Dayna Allinson at 610-849-8076 ext. 315.

The Arc's Agency with Choice (AWC) program continues to operate at full capacity and is expanding personnel. Questions regarding the program can be directed to The Arc's Chief Program Officer (CPO) Patrick Kreshock at 610-849-8076 ext. 351 or pkreshock@arcoflehighnorthampton.org.

Friendly Reminders:

- Eligibility for Extended School Year (ESY) for school-age students with an IEP must occur by February 28th, 2023. If you & your IEP team have not met to review the criteria & determine eligibility, call an IEP meeting! Visit our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@thearcoflehighandnorthampt222/videos>, and view this video to learn more.

- The preschool EI program must convene transition meetings by the end of February for all children approaching the age for kindergarten or first grade!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3i7Ba6ERIRM>

Learn more about this transition process, the legal requirements, and your role & rights in this process by viewing this video on our YouTube Channel for Dispute Resolution (ODR).

Visit our website to see the complete list of our current & upcoming webinars, <https://arcoflehighnorthampton.org/events/>. You can submit training requests to us, and join our mailing list,

https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001X5d-paIA6QUdkkFN2z2ZyyzOvXG9Z3p8qPmPpQQZv-m0lbbhQ0NghfeOn2FloQ8UGaC_Lg90RAaCpb0YpHu

[MG_Tbg4GXQJn9_qDXzOhrqSYM%3D](#) , to receive email updates on our trainings & events!

b. ARC of Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA):

<http://www.thearcnepa.org/>

Roseann Polishan reported via email:

Still working on March flyers and Introducing The Arc of PA hosting Sib shops starting in March, which I can mention at the meeting and/or send to you once created and ready.

March is Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. See information on participating in The Arc of NEPA's project to celebrate the accomplishments of the amazing individuals with IDD living in our area (Lackawanna/Susquehanna/Carbon/Monroe/Pike/Wayne/Luzerne counties.)

Carbon County:

Individual Advocacy services available

Presentations available to Providers/Agencies/schools/Groups

The Arc of NEPA is available for advocacy for those in Carbon County. She can be reached with any questions at: mcolville@thearcnepa.org or rpolishan@thearcnepa.org for further information.

The Arc of PA offers families the opportunities to sign up for Action Alerts: <https://thearcpa.org/action-alerts/> . Action Alerts is a good way of notifying families of critical legislation or upcoming government action. Your legislator can be identified to allow you to call or email them.

c. ARC of Pennsylvania:

Tierra Brown and Eleni Burd reported:

There is still time to register for the next Book Club Box. Theme; We Can Be Heroes
April and May Dates are Set
Summer; Inclusive Pioneers is set. Scholarships are available

Thank you for reaching out! I've attached our clickable PDF summary (with registration links) as well as some small graphics for our upcoming programs included in the LTF21 Smore.

PD Guide and links:

Include Me: <https://thearcpa.org/includeme/>

Program Links: <https://thearcpa.org/includeme/bookstudy/> ,
<https://thearcpa.org/includeme/after-school-hangout-series/>

Information will be attached.

d. Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21:

<https://www.cliu.org/>

Dr. Mark Scott, Director of Special Programs and Services at CLIU21 deferred to Kendyle Mills, Education Consultant, for report:

Transition Tuesday. Shared Smore page and links.

Folder for upcoming events and information:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1T52LySyzYH4NdLIJ_7kTuOSwztYmFd3V

The Mission of CLTCC is to promote effective transition services for students with disabilities, their families, educators, and community service providers from school to adult community life. The meetings consist of presentations geared towards transition age students, networking time and resource sharing regarding transition.

CLTCC is composed of parents, representatives from agencies, employers, educators from the Intermediate unit, school districts, vocational technical schools and Higher Education.

To join us please contact: Kendyle Mills; Millsk1@cliu.org

CLTCC meets from 9AM-11AM on 2022-2023 dates below:

Thursday, April 13, 2023 IU Admin building APR room/ or by Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/97384219166>

Google Drive for CLTCC:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bzqvXQIMnNKloNxeMxaFjL_692gf4y73

Google Drive:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pQEN8Upzffw47PeN5eJ9XmE1BR-MDxNAQ3hB9jAtWFw/edit>

Transition Google Drive for Families:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zWfiG7Eo1Sq8HJI1-Fq3cKVkLjHSZcx6>

Google Drive for CLTCC:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bzqvXQIMnNKloNxeMxaFjL_692gf4y73

e. Lehigh County Developmental Programs:

Heather Shirk reported:

Hi, we are working on our 2023 grad list and what types of services and funding are needed. The intent to enroll letters have been sent out to the graduates. Still working on intakes and if anyone has one, they can call 610-782-3200 and make a referral.

f. Carbon, Monroe, Pike County Developmental Programs (CMP):

Emma Furiosi reported:

Intent to enroll letters have been sent out to graduates.

March is Disability Awareness Month, encouragement to wear orange. More events in the works and will share information as it becomes available.

g. Office of Developmental Programs (ODP):

Maureen Timlin was absent. No report given:

h. Superintendent's Report:

The LTF21 is looking for a new school district superintendent that would like to join the Local Task Force in sharing up-to-date information about the wonderful happenings their district offers to students within their community. Please notify me if you have an interest in this opportunity. You can attend our monthly meetings or send monthly reports via email to localtaskforce21@gmail.com. Thank You!

i. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR):

Kaitlynn Tretter reported via email:

I don't think we have any new updates this month. We are still doing our social skills & employment group which was shared previously. Once we have our summer program information I will send that out. Thanks!

Below is information on what OVR does and how to contact them:

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment. OVR provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities, both directly and through a network of approved vendors. A wide variety of services are provided on an individualized basis.

<https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/ovr/Pages/default.aspx>

It is important to have the time to navigate the needs of each applicant. If you are in need, please reach out to OVR. <https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/Common/Registration>

j. Other Agency Reports:

Easter Seals:

<https://www.easterseals.com/>

Jill Glose reported:

Update on the services they provide, including flier information for Growing Green and Camp Lily are attached with active links in the LTF21 Smore. Virtual remains efficient for their organization as well as cost efficient. They receive funding from the Department of Health to assist in providing necessary services. Please refer to the Easter Seals Website for more information.

Therapeutic Arts Group, LLC:

<https://www.therapeuticartsgroup.com/>

Kathy Purcell, Director, Therapeutic Arts Group, LLC, reported:

Therapeutic Arts Group, Lehigh Valley based Music Therapy Associates, LLC was established in 1990 by Director, Kathy Purcell, MT-BC. After years of providing in-home and on-site services, MTA became the premier provider of music therapy services in the greater Lehigh Valley area, including Philadelphia, Kutztown, Reading, Poconos, and Western New Jersey.

Recognizing the varied needs of the area clientele, MTA expanded in 2018 and created

its sister branch Art Therapy Associates. Shortly after, the two were formally joined under the Therapeutic Arts Group umbrella and a new facility in Whitehall, Pennsylvania was opened in 2022 to provide individuals the most conducive environment for music and art therapy sessions.

Now with over 30 board certified music therapists and art therapists, TAG is committed to finding the perfect client-therapist pairing in order ensure client comfort, time, and location flexibility, as well as the best therapeutic outcome possible.

For more information and resources, please visit us at:

www.therapeuticartsgroup.com

Catch our the live-streaming music enrichment program called Music Made Mobile on our Facebook page:www.facebook.com/TherapeuticArtsGroup Live streaming Mondays and Fridays at 9:30AM. Fridays at 10:30AM there is a sing along.

Therapeutic Arts Group: OPEN HOUSE

Thursday April 27th , 2023 from 2:00 PM-6:00 PM

Please join us for the official opening of our new facility at 1624 Schadt Avenue in Whitehall, PA

Quality Progressions:

<http://www.qualityprogressions.org/>

Kristy Fogle email report:

Quality Progressions remains fully in the field. We are working closely with the AE's to waiverize graduating 21 year olds, and working with the school and family to figure out what services work best. Please invite your SC's to any meetings, especially transition meetings. QP's office is currently being remodeled, so it is closed to anyone outside of the agency. We are currently in the process of hiring for an expansion caseload, so if you know anyone interested in being a SC, please feel free to have them reach out to me. Thanks 😊

Kristy Fogle, M.S.

Supports Coordinator Supervisor

Cell Phone/Direct Fax: 267-238-4983

SAM, Inc.:

<https://www.sam-inc.org/>

Andrew Hoppes was absent and did not send report.

Parent To Parent:

www.parenttoparent.org

Nirole Lindsay, Parent and Parent, Northeast Regional Coordinator reported:

No major updates for P2P other than the Emergency Preparedness Summit coming up. She is looking for parents who need support and assistance. Just reminding people to send referrals or request a match via our website www.parenttoparent.org under "get matched", follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/parenttoparentpa>, and that agencies can request rack cards (physical or digital) through our website, as well, under "communications". You can also share my contact information!

Her contact information is listed below:

Nicole Lindsay; Northeast Regional Coordinator, can be reached by email at nlindsay@parenttoparent.org or phone at 570-780-0109.

The PEAL Center:

<https://www.pealcenter.org/>

Katerri Beachum was absent and sent no report.

Autism Society of Lehigh Valley:

<https://www.asalehighvalley.org/>

Mimi Ludwig was absent and sent no report.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Membership:

We are looking for parent representatives for all of the 14 school districts in Lehigh and Carbon County that the LTF represents. Please send out our information to the families in your districts and to anyone you know who would benefit from being a part of this amazing organization. Please reach out for more information or if you have an interest in joining us! localtaskforce21@gmail.com

b. Compliance Monitoring:

Cyclical Monitoring for the 2022-23 School Year is completed.

c. In-Service:

Nothing to Report

d. Legislation:

The following are bills introduced on The Arc of Pennsylvania's monthly watchlist. **Unless otherwise noted, The Arc may not actively support the bills listed below.** Nothing to report at this time.

Visit <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/> to locate and contact your local legislators on issues important to you & your family!

6. Chairperson's Report:

a. State Task Force:

The STF has bi-monthly meetings starting:

- **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - TBD**

All STF meetings begin at 10AM.

All State Task Force meetings are held virtually and in-person at this time.

Meeting ID: 991 9413 4883

The STF will be increasing their presence within the 29 Local Task Forces to help improve relationships between IUs and LTFs.

<https://www.pattan.net/about-us/partners/state-task-force/>

b. Upcoming Trainings and Events:

Please visit Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/localtaskforce21>

The Local Task Force 21 Newsletter Links for January, February and March:

The week of 1/2/23: <https://www.smores.com/xtk8g>

The week of 1/9/2023: <https://www.smores.com/t3wzd>

The week of 1/16/2023: <https://www.smores.com/k9vnt>

The week of 1/23/2023: <https://www.smores.com/d840e>

The week of 1/30/2023: <https://www.smores.com/xctds>

The week of 2/6/2023: <https://www.smores.com/bh51a>

The week of 2/13/2023: <https://www.smores.com/acsvn>

The week of 2/20/2023: <https://www.smores.com/xp2t0>

The week of 3/13/2023: <https://www.smores.com/18am4>

The week of 3/20/2023: <https://www.smores.com/usb5y>

The week of 3/27/2023: <https://www.smores.com/7z1ua>

1. Geisinger and the Autism Collaborative Centers of Excellence are offering a pre-recorded webinar course for families and those who care for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Register at: <https://glearn.geisinger.org/admi/learn> There is no start or end date listed.

Contact Information:

- Rural PA: Health Access Network for People with Disabilities: <https://www.pahealthaccess.org>
- PA Able, Field Representative, contact Diane Fishlock: dfishlock@ptreasury.gov to learn about PA ABLE and its benefits for those with disabilities www.PAABLE.gov
- PA Families: <http://www.pafamiliesinc.com/>
- If you're struggling with any mental health concerns, please reach out for assistance by dialing 988.
- Join the Conversation. For anyone feeling anxious or stressed. If you feel you need support, join our Wednesday evening group at 6 PM-7 PM. For more info, Please contact Heather McLean at hmclean@mhaswpa.org or (724) 433-1359 for the Zoom link and password. (This is not a clinical/therapeutic group, but here to offer social support.)
- Mental Health Group. Experiencing mental health symptoms? Then you can find support in the Tuesday afternoon Mental Health group from 1 pm to 2 pm. For more info, Please contact Heather McLean at hmclean@mhaswpa.org or (724) 433-1359 for the Zoom link and password.

7. Presentation:

Dr. Mark Scott, Director of Special Programs and Services with the CLIU21: Mark spoke about the Children's Foundation the IU supports. The Foundation helps support camp fees for students with disabilities in Lehigh and Carbon Counties, this is just one way the foundation supports our students, including summer gifting programs.

It is Mental Health Awareness Month and Mental Health Projects like "Project Aware" and other available programs are in school districts. The CLIU21 comes in to support these programs as needed.

Dr. Scott said when addressing the students the CLIU21 provides support for, "It is their need, not their diagnosis that is addressed." He included all behavior is communication and LRE is very important to all.

What is an Intermediate Unit?

- Work with the Department of Education
- There are 29 IU's within the state of PA
- IU21 has 14 Districts and 8 Charter Schools (Brick & Mortar) Also 2 Technical Schools and 23 Non Public Schools we service.
- 72 Classrooms total
- We offer Behavioral Health

Additional Programs and Services

1. EI Program
2. Educational Consultants/Training and Consultation Services (TAC)
3. Non Pub Act 89 Services
4. Equitable Participation
5. Flight Team
6. Liaison between PA Dept of Ed
7. Trauma Informed Practices Services
8. LLAS Program (sweet pup helping so many open up as well as feel safe)

The recording of this presentation can be found on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/localtaskforce21>

8. Discussion:

If there are any questions regarding the LTF21 or this month's presentation, please contact Amanda Robbins @ localtaskforce21@gmail.com.

9. Adjournment:

Amanda Robbins asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Purcell made the first motion, Emma Furiosi seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58AM. Thank you for your continued and much appreciated support of the Local Task Force 21. See you in May!